



Trestle Board

St. John's Lodge #1 A.F. & A.M.
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Around the Lodge

Whew! It was a busy end to 2011 for St. John's Lodge #1. Our first annual Winter Festival took place on December 3rd, we raised four candidates to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason, and we voted for and installed our officers for 2012.

The first annual Winter Festival hosted by St. John's Lodge #1 was a great success having raised over \$1000 for the Yahweh Center; a local, non-profit organization that provides housing and psychiatric care to children who have had to be removed from their homes for their own welfare.

If you see David Grace, Matt Irigh, Brian Whichello, or Dylan Holland around the lodge, congratulate them on becoming our newest Master Masons. They have worked very hard and have shown their zeal for our institution. Dylan is "on loan" to us from a lodge in Durham but he will always have a special connection to our lodge as our lodge will always have a special connection to him.

The lodge members have spoken and the officers for 2012 have been elected and installed. The officers for the ensuing year are as follows:

Parker Stevens.....Master
Harry Turner.....Senior Warden
Bob Seeling.....Junior Warden
Mervin Hogg PM.....Treasurer
Ace Everett PM.....Secretary
Terry Kuhn.....Senior Deacon
Adam Jennings.....Junior Deacon
Chuck Baer.....Senior Steward
Ben Sorenson.....Junior Steward
Ted Hueskies PM.....Chaplain
Cleo Hasse PM.....Tyler

I know the officers are looking forward to a great year of serving you!

Do You Know?

Question for January: Our lodge number is #1 under the Grand Lodge of North Carolina. What was the original number given to our lodge under the Grand Lodge of England?

Question from December: How many U.S. presidents were Freemasons? Can you name them?

Answer from December: 14 - George Washington, James Monroe, Andrew Jackson, James Polk, James Buchanan, Andrew Johnson, James Garfield, William McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, Howard Taft, Warren Harding, Franklin Roosevelt, Harry Truman, Gerald Ford.

From the East

New Year's Resolutions by Parker Stevens, Master

Well the holiday season is over and I hope it was wonderful and filled with joy for everyone. I know it was for my family and me and our greatest gift was the smile on our little girl's face when she opened all her gifts. Now that we are entering into a new year it's time to once again make our New Year's Resolutions. With that said, I have made my list for the lodge and would like to share it with you.

I want to first focus on fellowship and family. I put these two hand-in-hand because I want to have more events and activities that are open to our friends and family. Let's face it, our families want our time as well and having events that they can attend would really bring us all closer. On the other side, I look forward to meeting your friends, spouse, kids, etc... Becoming closer to the Brethren is one goal of mine this year.

The second thing I want to do is use Past Masters more in our ritual work. If you think about it, as an officer goes through the line and eventually becomes a Past Master it seems they end up just sitting on the sidelines and for the most part are inactive. The reason for this, I've been told, is because there are so many other officers in line that need to fill in and do the parts. Although I see their point, I disagree. I think any member, officer, or Past Master who wants to be active or do a part during a degree should. After all, I like to think that we all joined the lodge to make a difference. That's why I want to use our Past Masters (and non-officers) as much as possible. We have so much to learn from them and we can always use the extra help and support.

The final resolution I want to mention is the promotion of our charities. My current goal is to raise \$2,000 (or more) for Oxford and Whitestone. I know, with your help, this is an easy goal for 2012. More on fundraising to come....

Other things on my to-do-list include: (full list too long to publish)

- Trips/Tours to Whitestone, Oxford, and Washington D.C.
- Raise money to buy new AC units for the lodge.
- Have Masonic Education at all stated meetings.

As you can see we have a very busy, yet exciting, year planned for the lodge. I hope you will plan to attend as much as is within the length of your cabletow. Next month I will write about my journey to the East and why I became a Mason. So until then I want to wish you all the best this coming year and if you need anything, want to get involved, or just want to enjoy some fellowship please feel free to contact me anytime. My cell phone is the best way to reach me, 910-616-9803.

Cheers and Best Wishes!!!

Calendar

January

1/3 (Tuesday) – 1st practice with the new officers. Committee assignments.

1/10 (Tuesday) – 1st stated meeting of 2012: Dinner @ 6:30p and meeting @ 7:30p.

1/17 (Tuesday) – Degree practice, fundraising meeting, budget and finance meeting.

1/19 (Thursday) – 1st degree. 7:30p. No meal, refreshments after

1/26 (Thursday) – 2nd degree. 7:30p. No meal, refreshments after

February

2/14(Tuesday) – Stated meeting: dinner @ 6:30p and meeting @ 7:30p

Future, Important Dates

3/13 (Tuesday) – Stated meeting: dinner @ 6:30p and meeting @ 7:30p

3/19 (Monday) – AREME's 25th anniversary! All St. John's officers are required to attend the dinner.

From the West

Happy New Year!!

From the South

Brethren:

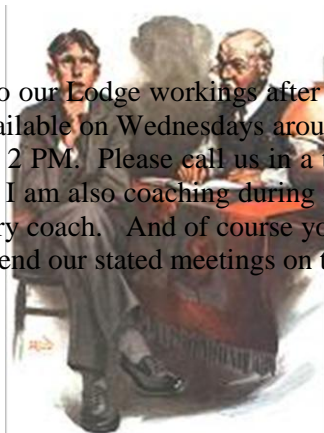
At our December Stated Meeting, \$222.00 was donated for the Twelve Months of Caring and Sharing Project. Along with earlier deposits of \$785.00, this raised the total for the year to \$1,007.00. ACE will forward two checks for \$500.00 each to The Masonic Home for Children and Whitestone early next week in time to be received before Christmas. Thanks to all brothers who donated to this cause in 2011.

We will begin a new year of Twelve Months of Caring and Sharing in January. The 2011 campaign began in June and we had only seven months for donations. We will have a full year to work with in 2012 and, hopefully, can increase our total, perhaps even doubling our 2011 gifts. A full year of "12 months of giving" is \$78.00. This can be accomplished over the 12 months (one dollar for the number of the month in the year...Jan= \$1.00; Feb.= \$2.00, etc); or a single check for \$78.00 made out to St John's #1 with 12 months of caring and sharing on the memo line can be made at any time. We hope everyone will participate in this project to support our charities.

Bob Seeling, JW

Koach's Korner

Hello everyone, as we are returning to our Lodge workings after the holidays I want to remind our candidates of our coaching schedule. I will normally be available on Wednesdays around 6 or 7 PM and on Sundays at 1 PM. Brother Chuck Baer will be available on Saturdays at 2 PM. Please call us in a timely manner if you would like to meet one of those times so we can be sure to expect you. I am also coaching during my lunches at the Battleship. As usual you can set up a convenient schedule with your primary coach. And of course you can call or write myself or Chuck if you have any problems. Please make every effort to attend our stated meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of the month.



-Terry Kuhn, CI, Head Coach, SD

MASONIC SPOTLIGHT

Introductions



Adam France: Entered Apprentice

Born: 6/23/89 Santa Cruz, CA

Occupation: Student

Hobbies: Martial Arts, Music, Outdoors

Why did you join Masonry? “To help others”



Jim Brandt: Entered Apprentice

Born: 4/19 Indianapolis, IN

Occupation: CPA – retired

Hobbies: Fishing, Cooking

Why did you join Masonry? To fellowship in the brotherhood of a well-respected, international organization

Reflections

Parker Stevens - WM

When were you raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason?

February 28, 2004 in Colombia Lodge No. 58 in Frederick, MD. My Dad and Grandfather were present and my Dad raised me.

Who is your Masonic role model and why?

I have so many but three are very special to me. First, is my Grandfather who recently passed away, October 18, 2011. He was the reason why I joined Masonry and always told me that I should always try to surround myself with good people and any man that is a Mason is a good person. So far, I couldn't agree more. I have always wanted to be just like my Grandfather and in every way. So when I got married, had a stable job, and left like I had some free time I too joined Masonry. He was the perfect role model. Kind and respectful to all, loved his friends like family, and always put family first. I my mind if this was the qualities of a Mason, I too wanted to join.

The second is my Dad. He was a lot like my Grandfather so I want repeat those qualities but I will highlight one; his passion to help others and to support good causes. When he was the Master I remember hosting children from Oxford for the weekend and it seemed that his main goal was to show the children a good time. To this date he is always willing to accept an offer to help one of our great charities.

My final Masonic role model is my Mother. As the current Worthy Grand Matron of the Order of the Eastern Star of NC I'm always impressed by her desire to serve others. She has outstanding leadership and organizational skills and loves to plan events for all to enjoy. It seems that her focus is fellowship and just enjoying the Brothers and Sisters around us. So at each fundraiser, meeting, or event she is always asking if people are having a good time. You see she knows that if people don't enjoy the events they are attending then it is likely they will not return again. I agree, which is why I too want to focus this year on fellowship and enjoying the bonds of brotherhood.

What appendant bodies do you belong to? (Highest Office Held)

St. John's Lodge No 1 (Master)

Wilkerson College Lodge No 760 (Tyler)

Scottish Rite – Valley of Wilmington (Ambassador & Assistant Director – Stage Crew)

Sudan Shrine - Member

NC Order of the Eastern Star – A.R.E.M.E (Marshall & Chaplain)

Knights of Saint Andrew – Work group within the Scottish Right (Past First Knight)

What are your Masonic aspirations for the future?

Well mine aren't titles or positions. My main Masonic goal is to continue to be healthy enough in life to be active and support all my Masonic bodies. I enjoy being a worker bee most of all and long for the chance to support our wonderful local, state, and national charities. So if my peers elect me to another position, I would then assume it is because they respect and trust me to get the job done. Therefore, if it's within the length of my cabletow I'm willing to serve.

What is your favorite station/place in the line?

Outstanding question as they all have some good obligations and responsibilities. I think my favorite officer is the Tyler's place. Probably not most people's first answer, I know, but I like it because you are entrusted with the security of the lodge as well as the “official” greeter. I love to meet new Brothers and catch up with old ones. So greeting each Brother as they come in an out is a cool job to me. One of my favorite Masonic books is the Old Tyler Talks by Carl H. Claudy. It has tons of short stories about an old Tyler and his advice on Masonic situations. Very interest book that I recommend to everyone.

What is your favorite Masonic working tool or piece of lodge furniture?

I would say the Tyler's sword. When people in the community think about Masons they picture a Knight on a horse with a sword in hand.

What is your favorite degree?

The 1st degree. When men join they are so excited to be initiated and you can just see their interest in what all is going on. Plus it's the first impression of the lodge and the rest of the degrees.

Masonic Education

There is always speculation on where in the “outside” world, away from our “sacred retreat” of the lodge, that we may find Freemasonry. We are bombarded with legends and stories; Dan Brown had given us many wonderful tales that place our brotherhood at the center of conspiracy and, in his *Lost Symbol*, an influential society that may be the last vestige of decency and rectitude of conduct (though the book also puts Freemasons in control of the highest places of government). We all know the legend that the Great Seal of the United States has our “all-seeing eye,” and yes, it is there. But, it was not a Masonic symbol, per se, rather than a universal symbol of Providence during the Enlightenment. (The only person on the committee designing the Great Symbol who was a Mason was Bro. Ben Franklin, and his contributions contained nothing Masonic). We know about the symbols in Washington DC, real and imagined, but these are usually the flights of fancy of conspiracy theorists. So, where in normal, everyday life do we find Masonry outside of the Lodge?

We have also been often faced with the thought that there is not much literature for Masons; however, some of the greatest poets and authors were members of our order. One of the most prolific authors who did not shy away from masonry as a theme in his writing was Rudyard Kipling. He was the author of *The Jungle Book* and many poems, but for Masons, he did not withhold his pen. He was, as he said, “entered [as an Apprentice] by a member from Brahma Somaj, a Hindu, passed [to the degree of Fellow Craft] by a Mohammedan, and raised [to the degree of Master Mason] by an Englishman. Our Tyler was an Indian Jew.” He was a member of Hope and Perseverance Lodge No. 782, and served as the Secretary there; his experience was so central to his life that he wrote many poems and *The Man Who Would Be King*, a playful work based on his Masonic life as well as the realities and dreams in British-occupied India. His poetry exudes his love for the lodge and his brethren, and the symbolism in his acclaimed poem “If” contains symbolism and imagery that would mean much to the Master Mason, and still connect to the laity that would also read his work. *The Man Who Would Be King*, should you be interested, is available in its entirety for free in Google Books, and here we will take the liberty of including three of his Masonic poems.

-Brother Ben Sorenson, JS

IF

If you can keep your head when all about you
Are losing theirs and blaming it on you;
If you can trust yourself when all men doubt
you,
But make allowance for their doubting too;
If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,
Or, being lied about, don't deal in lies,
Or, being hated, don't give way to hating,
And yet don't look too good, nor talk too wise;
If you can dream — and not make dreams your
master;
If you can think — and not make thoughts your
aim;
If you can meet with triumph and disaster
And treat those two imposters just the same;
If you can bear to hear the truth you've spoken
Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,
Or watch the things you gave your life to
broken,
And stoop and build 'em up with wornout tools;
If you can make one heap of all your winnings
And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,
And lose, and start again at your beginnings
And never breathe a word about your loss;
If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew
To serve your turn long after they are gone,
And so hold on when there is nothing in you
Except the Will which says to them: "Hold on";
If you can talk with crowds and keep your
virtue,
Or walk with kings — nor lose the common
touch;
If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you;
If all men count with you, but none too much;
If you can fill the unforgiving minute
With sixty seconds' worth of distance run —
Yours is the Earth and everything that's in it,
And — which is more — you'll be a Man my
son!

My New Cut Ashlar, or L'Envoi to "Life's Handicap."

My new-cut ashlar takes the light
Where crimson-blank the windows flare.
By my own work before the night,
Great Overseer, I make my prayer.

If there be good in that I wrought
Thy Hand compelled it, Master, Thine —
Where I have failed to meet Thy Thought
I know, through Thee, the blame was mine.

The depth and dream of my desire,
The bitter paths wherein I stray —
Thou knowest Who hast made the Fire,
Thou knowest Who hast made the Clay.

Who, lest all thought of Eden fade,
Bring'st Eden to the craftsman's brain —
Godlike to muse o'er his own Trade
And manlike stand with God again!

One stone the more swings into place
In that dread Temple of Thy worth.
It is enough that, through Thy Grace,
I saw nought common on Thy Earth.

Take not that vision from my ken —
Oh whatsoever may spoil or speed.
Help me to need no aid from men
That I may help such men as need!

The Mother Lodge

There was Rundle, Station Master,
An' Beazeley of the Rail,
An' 'Ackman, Commissariat,
An' Donkin' o' the Jail;
An' Blake, Conductor-Sargent,
Our Master twice was 'e,
With 'im that kept the Europe-shop,
Old Framjee Eduljee.

Outside — "Sergeant! Sir! Salute! Salaam!"
Inside — "Brother", an' it doesn't do no 'arm.
We met upon the Level an' we parted on the
Square,
An' I was Junior Deacon in my Mother-Lodge
out there!

We'd Bola Nath, Accountant,
An' Saul the Aden Jew,
An' Din Mohammed, draughtsman
Of the Survey Office too;
There was Babu Chuckerbutty,
An' Amir Singh the Sikh,
An' Castro from the fittin'-sheds,
The Roman Catholick!

We 'adn't good regalia,
An' our Lodge was old an' bare,
But we knew the Ancient Landmarks,
An' we kep' 'em to a hair;
An' lookin' on it backwards
It often strikes me thus,
There ain't such things as infidels,

Excep', per'aps, it's us.

For monthly, after Labour,
We'd all sit down and smoke
(We dursn't give no banquits,
Lest a Brother's caste were broke),
An' man on man got talkin'
Religion an' the rest,
An' every man comparin'
Of the God 'e knew the best.

So man on man got talkin',
An' not a Brother stirred
Till mornin' waked the parrots
An' that dam' brain-fever-bird;
We'd say 'twas 'ighly curious,
An' we'd all ride 'ome to bed,
With Mo'ammed, God, an' Shiva
Changin' pickets in our 'ead.

Full oft on Guv'ment service
This rovin' foot 'ath pressed,
An' bore fraternal greetin's,
To the Lodges east an' west,
Accordin' as commanded
From Kohat to Singapore,
But I wish that I might see them
In my Mother-Lodge once more!

I wish that I might see them,
My Brethren black an' brown,
With the trichies smellin' pleasant
An' the hog-darn passin' down;
An' the old khansamah snorin'
On the bottle-khana floor,
Like a Master in good standing
With my Mother-Lodge once more!

Outside — "Sergeant! Sir! Salute! Salaam!"
Inside — "Brother", an' it doesn't do no 'arm.
We met upon the Level an' we parted on the
Square,
An' I was Junior Deacon in my Mother-Lodge
out there!

-Brother Rudyard Kipling

PICTURE PAGE



Brother Cleo Hasse explaining the finer points of wood working to lookers-on at the Winter Festival



Brother Ben Sorenson serenading our new Worshipful Master with Christmas carols at the Winter Festival



Long lost twins?



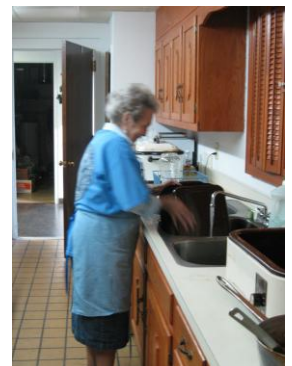
Our newest Master Masons (the ones not wearing tuxedos). From left to right: Brian Whichello, Matt Ihrig, Dylan Holland, David Grace.



Awwww



The newly installed officers of St. John's Lodge #1 for 2012!



How can we ever repay the wonderful women of AREME!?

Public Displays of Brotherly Love and Affection

Send your messages to: trestleboard@stjohns1nc.org

Congratulations to **David Grace, Matt Ihrig, Dylan Holland, and Brian Whichello** on becoming Master Masons!

Chuck Baer

When I started my journey in Masonry, I was to meet with three brothers at the lodge, Cleo Haase, Terry Kuhn, and **James Watson**. At the time he was senior warden, and seemed to be looking forward to going to the East. Now, that he has become a P.M., it is amazing to think of all that he accomplished and how he has invigorated a new passion for Masonry among the members of St. John's No. 1. He deserves his rank among those as William Hooper, Benjamin Smith, and all the other legendary brothers we have had serve here, and I personally wish him best on all of his future "laudable undertakings." I, a Brother of St. John's No. 1, love you very much and appreciate all the good you have instilled in each and every one of us.

Ben Sorenson

I'd like to give a big THANK-YOU to **Jeff Cottle**. We wouldn't have been able to move back into Wilmington without his help. He gave up a Saturday morning to bring his truck and trailer over to help us get our furniture from Leland to Wilmington. Barbara and I can't thank him enough!

Erik Gray

This is for **James Watson PM**:

This simple "thank you" falls way short of what you deserve. Your love of St. John's Lodge #1 is contagious and has encouraged me and others to participate in the activities and work that has made and will continue to make our lodge so great. I hope when you look at this line of officers that you helped shape you do so with the pride and satisfaction of a Masonic big brother.

Chuck Baer

Past Master **James Watson**:

Congratulations on your successful year as Master of St John's Lodge #1. Your open leadership style to provide opportunities for brothers to prepare for and sit in the East for first and second degrees, your penchant for having fellowship and fun as a central theme of our projects...Super Bowl Party, Final Four gathering, breakfasts, dinners, Winter Festival...allowed for further bonding of the brotherhood, and your focus on recognition of brothers for birthdays, brother of the year, and "being there" for brothers in times of need, were all significant achievements. Congratulations on your "graduation" to Past Master!

Bob Seeling

Congratulations to **all the new officers for 2012!**
May you all have a wonderful, productive year making good men better!

Ben Sorenson

This message is for **James Watson**.

I want to take this time to say thank you so much for a wonderful year. You've been a great friend and Master of the Lodge. I have some big shoes to fill and if I can accomplish half of what you did I will consider my year a success. Finally, thank you for your dedication to our lodge and brotherhood.

S&F, Parker Stevens, Master